

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

- 5 1. A shock absorbing saddle for use in horse-back riding, said saddle comprising:
 a frame assembly;
 a padded seat secured to said frame assembly;
 said frame assembly having a shock absorbing system;
 said shock absorbing system comprises means for absorbing shock; and
10 means for securing said frame assembly to a horse.

- 15 2. A saddle as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
 a fabric-based cover; and
 means for securing said cover to said padded seat.

- 20 3. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:
 a plurality of shock absorbing springs.

4. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:
20 a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.

5. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly comprises:
 an upper frame comprising a plurality of rods operatively joined together;

a lower frame comprising a plurality of rods operatively joined together, said means for absorbing shock extending between said lower frame and said upper frame joining said frames together.

5 6. A saddle as recited in claim 5, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:
a plurality of shock absorbing springs.

7. A saddle as recited in claim 5, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:
a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.

10 8. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly comprises:
an upper plate;
a lower plate, said means for absorbing shock extending between said lower plate
and said upper plate joining said plates together.

15 9. A saddle as recited in claim 8, wherein said means for absorbing shock comprises:
a plurality of shock absorbing air pistons.

10. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said padded seat comprises a cushion.

20 11. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly further comprises foam
padding.

12. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said padded seat fits over said frame assembly.

13. A saddle as recited in claim 1, wherein said frame assembly and padded seat
5 comprise contours that adapt to the contours of a horse back.